

# **Miami Approach and Departure Gates Forecast Product Description Document**

## **Part I-Mission Connection**

- a. Product Description - The Miami Approach and Departure Gates Forecast will complement the Collaborative Convection Forecast (CCFP) product by providing greater detail of convective occurrence and coverage of thunderstorms. This graphic forecast product is a modification of the Tracon and Gate Forecast product used at the ZTL CWSU.
- b. Purpose - The Miami Approach and Departure Gates Forecast will provide the Miami ARTCC Traffic Management Unit (TMU) and Miami Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) TMU with a graphical product for planning activities for the management of air traffic flow around significant convective activity. The graphic will provide an easy to interpret color coded forecast of the thunderstorm coverage.
- c. Audience - The target audiences for the graphical product includes primarily the Miami ARTCC TMU and Miami TRACON TMU. Other FAA supervisors and controllers will have access to the product through the ZMA CWSU Website.
- d. Presentation Format - Microsoft PowerPoint will be used to create graphics, which will be uploaded to the Southern Region web servers for display on ZMA CWSU Website. Hard copies will be given to TMU in Miami ARTCC. Final colors of document may change due to customer feedback.
- e. Feedback Method - In person weekly surveys to be consolidated into a spread sheet later during the experimental period.

### **Points of Contact:**

Center Weather Service Unit  
Attn: John Wright, or Matthew Rosencrans  
Air Route Traffic Control Center  
7500 NW 58<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami, FL 33166

**Phone:** (305)-716-1634  
(305)-716-1635

**Email:** [John.E.Wright@noaa.gov](mailto:John.E.Wright@noaa.gov)  
[Matthew.Rosencrans@noaa.gov](mailto:Matthew.Rosencrans@noaa.gov)

Comment period will be for the first six months. Initially, expected to be from Feb. 1, 2008 to Jul. 31, 2008.

## Part II- Technical Description

- a. Format and Science Basis - The Miami Approach and Departure Gate Forecast Graphic will be issued twice daily and updated as needed. Forecasts will be made of 2 hour intervals beginning at 14Z and ending at 00Z for the morning release and for the second release 2 hour intervals beginning at 22Z and ending at 06Z. The established ranges for thunderstorm coverage are color coded, green for less than 30% (implying full air traffic use), yellow for 30-60% (implying restricted air traffic use), and red for 60% or greater (implying unusable for air traffic). These ranges are from a meteorological viewpoint. Depending on traffic patterns and volume actual gate usage will differ from the forecast. Guidance from the Storm Prediction Center and National Center for Environmental Prediction which includes WRF-NAM and RUC model data will be considered. Trends in satellite, lightning, and radar data will be considered in addition to the mesoscale analysis and the CCFP forecasts. Collaboration with the Key West and Miami WFO's will provide consistency in forecasts.
- b. Product Availability - The Miami Approach and Departure Gate Forecast graphic will be available each morning around 9 AM local time and again around 5 PM local. Updates will be made as needed during the day and evening as significant changes in the forecast occurs.

Real-time access to the Miami Approach and Departure Gate Forecast graphic is preliminarily expected to be through the WWW at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/zma/gates.html>

- c. Additional information
  - (1) Graphic product was originally created by Dr. Charles West, MIC, ZTL CWSU. The product was then modified by Matthew Rosencrans for use in the ZMA CWSU.
  - (2) Product is a man-machine mix.
  - (3) Internet Explorer used to display.
  - (4) No references.

1 Attachment  
Sample Images

Attachment 1 – Sample images



